

A RESOLUTION memorializing the University of Tennessee  
Board of Trustees to establish a Center of  
Excellence for Women's Health at the University  
of Tennessee-Memphis Health Sciences Center.

WHEREAS, women's health issues are of paramount concern to the citizens of  
Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the paucity of clinical research and preventive medicine dedicated to  
women's health problems is appalling; and

WHEREAS, nationally one (1) in eight (8) women is expected to contract breast cancer  
in her lifetime, a statistic which has doubled in the last twenty (20) years; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, breast cancer was the leading cause of cancer deaths for African-  
American women; and

WHEREAS, nationally, every three (3) minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast  
cancer, and every twelve (12) minutes a woman dies from the disease; and

WHEREAS, more than 950,000 U.S. women have died of breast cancer since 1960.  
This is twice the number of Americans who died in World War I and II, the Korean War, the  
Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War combined; and

WHEREAS, because the methods to prevent breast cancer do not exist, it is crucial that  
earlier methods of detection be developed to increase a woman's chances of surviving breast  
cancer; and

WHEREAS, mammograms are important because they can detect approximately eighty  
percent (80%) of all tumors. Mammograms do not prevent or cure the cancer, they can only  
detect the disease; and

WHEREAS, because women generally outlive men, they are increasingly likely to suffer from chronic illnesses or other disabilities that require continuing care for longer and longer periods. In 1980, there were eighty (80) men for each one hundred (100) women aged sixty-five (65) to sixty-nine (69), but only forty-four (44) men for each one hundred (100) women in the eighty-five (85) and over bracket; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of acute conditions in women is twenty percent (20%) to thirty percent (30%) higher than in men. Also, women suffer from more nonfatal chronic conditions than men, and they show consistently higher rates of short-term disability; and

WHEREAS, of all fatal strokes, sixty-one percent (61%) occur in women; and

WHEREAS, because of this disturbing litany of statistics relative to women's health issues, and a host of other equally disturbing facts about women's health, it is time for Tennessee state government to address this extremely important issue directly, and take appropriate measures to rectify our shortcomings in adequately funding women's health programs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this General Assembly hereby memorializes the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees to seek adequate funding to establish a Center of Excellence for Women's Health at the University of Tennessee-Memphis Health Sciences Center. The mission of the Center of Excellence for Women's Health should be to conduct clinical and statistical research and to identify and recommend preventive and other early detection and intervention medical procedures for women's health issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy., That this General Assembly hereby memorializes the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees to seek adequate funding to establish a Center of Excellence for Women's Health at the University of Tennessee-Memphis Health Sciences Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Center of Excellence for Women's Health should also be charged with carrying out the following responsibilities and duties:

(1) Working in cooperation with the department of health to improve breast cancer and cervical cancer prevention and control;

(2) Ensuring the inclusion of women's health problems in biomedical and biobehavioral clinical research studies conducted by state colleges and universities;

(3) Reviewing available statistics relative to women's health in Tennessee, to include but not be limited to, the number of women by age, race and income categories who have pap smears and mammograms performed;

(4) Examining the effect of the TennCare program, and other publicly funded health and social programs, on women's health, for example, the extraordinarily low incidence of epidurals used during childbirth under such programs; and

(5) Promulgating and establishing comprehensive educational programs for women relative to neonatal and prenatal care, heart disease, AIDS, cancer, lung disease and other diseases, medical conditions and aspects of child care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees and to the President of the University of Tennessee system.

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